

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEETING, MAERSK MC-KINNEY MOELLER INSTITUTE

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 4th, 2021 at 13:00-14:30 – Online meeting via Zoom

	Participants:	Department
	Kasper Hallenborg (Chairman)	Head of Department
	Christian T. Veje (Deputy Chairman)	Energy Informatics
	Annika Skjødt	Department Service
	Julie Bebe-Hempler	Department Service
	Rasmus Rasmussen Fahrenдорff	Student representative
	Danish Shaikh	Biorobotics
	Manuella Lech Cantuaria	Applied AI and Data Science
	Morten Hansen	Health Informatics and Techn.
	Ulrik Pagh Schultz	UAS Dronecenter
	Thiusius Rajeeth	Robotics
Absent:	Anders Bøgild	Health Informatics and Techn.
	Sanja Lazarova-Molnar	Software Engineering
Minute taker:	Annika Skjødt	

Agenda:**Subject**

1. Election of Deputy Chairman
2. Future Meetings in the Department Council
3. Follow-up on Mini Workplace Assessment in February
4. News from the Student Councils
5. #MeToo discussion continued
6. Allocation of teaching continued
7. AOB
8. Next meeting

Ad 1) Election of Deputy Chairman according to SDU regulations §35 subsection 2.

All members shortly introduced themselves. Kasper informed about the ambition and purpose of the Department Council.

Christian T. Veje volunteered as the new deputy chairman.

Ad 2) Future Meetings in the Department Council

The goals for future meetings in the Department Council are:

- Points to be discussed will be informed in advance
- There will be a balance between information from Kasper to the council and discussions leading to advice given back to Kasper.
- There will be focus on discussions that lead to decisions.
- We need to keep a certain level of the discussion points, meaning that we will not discuss small details but will work with larger issues/situations/projects/etc.

Ad 3) Follow-up on Mini Workplace Assessment from FebruarySocial Events

There is a general request for getting some of our social events back whenever it is possible. This has been discussed at a management meeting and there will be focus on this as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows it.

Cost-Cutting

There will be no 2nd round of cost-cutting. Rumors about that should be avoided. We are in a much better economic situation now and there will be no further reduction of staff in a foreseeable future.

Grant Applications

Several members mentioned that colleagues feel a big pressure to contribute to grant applications. It was discussed how we can motivate colleagues to collaborate with colleagues inside of SDU and not just colleagues from outside of SDU when applying for grants. No exact conclusion was reached.

It was discussed if something can be done on an institutional level. Ulrik suggested to introduce a TEK Prize for collaboration. We could promote the already existing collaborations more and work more with funding in general: "How to attract funding", "How to write grant proposals" and have more collaboration on these.

Several members emphasized that we need to allocate time for writing proposals. Another structure to create free time for doing these things is needed.

We will get back to this discussion point at a later stage.

Ad 4) News from the Student Councils

There was no news. The situation is the same: The students are still studying at home and they are missing the environment at SDU, the discussions with their teachers and their fellow students.

It was discussed if it is possible to make smaller events to bring students back to campus. Rasmus confirmed that this would indeed be interesting for the students.

Ad 5) #MeToo (*discussion continued*)

No comments.

Ad 6) Allocation of teaching (*discussion continued*)

From next semester, external teachers will belong to 420 Department Service and not to a unit. This will bring a larger pool to the base funding and it will make it possible to distribute the pool more evenly between the units.

Teachers teaching courses with few students often feel that they do not “earn their own salary” whereas teachers teaching large courses do. A teacher should not earn his/her own salary – we do that in common – as a whole unit.

Instructors are very hard to find and the number used the past year has dropped dramatically. Instructors help more students pass their courses; thus, from a financial point of view, we should use instructors to lower the dropout.

An overview of the economic student FTE (STAA)-model/calculations was requested, and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

There is too much incentive for units to compete for the most interesting courses instead of collaborating. We need a model where we do not compete but collaborate and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ad 7) AOB

No comments.

Ad 8) Next Meeting

Next meeting will take place on August 30th, 2021 at 10:00 – 11:30.

The agenda will be forwarded approx. one week before the meeting. All council members are requested to contribute with points for the agenda whenever possible.